SYMONS'S
MONTHLY
METEOROLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

VIII.] SEPTEMBER, 1866. [PRICE FOURPENCE, or 5s. per ann. post free

THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

THE appointment of chief of the above office could scarcely be a sinecure in a country like this, where ceaseless alternations require attention, and where so many fancy they possess the key of nature's secrets, and can tell whence the wind cometh and whither it goeth. Admiral FitzRoy, however, took such unusual steps to bring his work before the public that it is no wonder that during the ten years in which he presided over the Department constant criticism was his lot; and that with his total lack of management, all his energy, experience, self-devotion, and zeal, were inadequate to cope with the pressure of work necessarily incidental to the position he held. However, the good old Admiral is gone, and we can only repeat the sentiment of one of the leading journals—"He is gone to his rest, and many a storm-sheltered mariner will look to the signal drum, and grieve with a manly sorrow for the loss of Robert FitzRoy."

Shortly after his death, a letter was addressed by the Board of Trade to the President of the Royal Society asking the advice of the Royal Society—(1) As to the extent to which the Department had fulfilled the objects for which it was organized; (2) As to the reliability of forecasts and storm signals; (3) As to the future conduct of the Department. About a month afterwards (June 15th, 1865), General Sabine, on behalf of the Royal Society, replied—that they considered the evidence submitted to them justified their recommending that the forecasting should remain in the hands of Mr. Babington, by whom it had been virtually carried on for some months past; that the meteorological observations made at sea by the captains of the royal and merchant navies be transferred to the custody of the Hydrographer, with a view to the introduction of the results into the Admiralty Charts; and lastly, that an entirely new system be organized for observing the "Land Meteorology of the British Islands," the stations being not less than six* in number, and provided with self-recording apparatus, the records from which should be sent weekly or otherwise to Kew Observatory, which is hereby proposed as the centre of this system. The Board of Trade subsequently expressed a desire for more thorough consideration of the progress made in marine meteorology, suggested the appointment of a small committee of investigation, and intimated that they saw some difficulty in the proposed maintenance of two establishments, one at Whitehall and one at Kew. Eventually, the

* Falmouth, Kew, Stonyhurst, Armagh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, are proposed.

following three gentlemen were appointed (in November, 1865) a committee of investigation:—

Royal Society—FRANCIS GALTON, Esq., F.R.S., General Secretary of the British Association.

Admiralty—STAFF-COMMANDER EVANS, R.N., F.R.S., Chief Naval Assistant to the Hydrographer.

Board of Trade—T. H. FARRER, Esq., one of the Secretaries to the Board of Trade.

Their report was presented to Parliament last session, and proves three points at once—first, the desirability of such a thorough investigation, the efficacy of the committee proposed by the Board of Trade, and the ability (if that wanted proving) of the persons nominated. It is rather voluminous (81 pages folio), and so replete with facts and details of importance as to render it extremely difficult to present an abridgment doing it full justice. After giving a clear and succinct account of the origin and original functions of the Department, it notices the steps taken to obtain meteorological observations at sea, and their results; also the method adopted by the Department in extracting observations, which comes in for detailed criticism of an exhaustive character, and a plan for future use is suggested of considerable value, and which we will therefore explain rather fully. Of course the essential difference between the meteorological register of a ship, and an observatory, is that the place of observation is movable in one case and fixed in the other. This difficulty is obviated by portioning out the ocean into squares embracing 10° of latitude and 10° of longitude—of course, therefore, of variable real area, but still readily recognized divisions. The old plan was to have "Data Books" for each subject, paged to correspond with the squares just referred to; then if the Department were working up any subject, the ships' registers were searched for that one detail only, and the rest was left uncopied; thus at least eight or ten separate searches were made, involving quite fourfold the trouble of the plan now proposed, which is, that each register should be copied out at once on to a set of printed cards, which could then be searched, sub-divided to any extent, and available in any way. We have seldom seen a more sensible or useful suggestion. The Committee proceed to enumerate and comment on the publications of the Department, which as a rule are condemned for their want of method. Among their suggestions for future practice is that of a form (Appendix p. xviii.) in which certain observations might be tabulated for publication, which is either an absurdly complicated misprint, or it requires explanation. The year is divided into four quarters, as follows:—(1) December, January, February; (2) March, April, June; (3) July, August, September; (4) August, November, December. May and October are therefore omitted, and August and December mentioned twice. We cannot comprehend this at all.

We have already remarked that the Board of Trade suggested a possible difficulty by the maintenance of a duplicate establishment at Kew; a paragraph, however, on p. 17 of the report under notice shows a third branch of the Meteorological Department:—

"The Admiralty Hydrographic Department are now devoting considerable pains to the preparation of physical charts—such as Ice, General Ocean Currents, and

Wind Charts. In these it is proposed to embody the results collected by the Meteorological Department in a form available to seamen."

The second part of the report is occupied by an account of the origin, and a rigorous examination of the Forecasts and Storm Warnings issued by the Department; it is far too voluminous for extract, but the following are the conclusions arrived at by the Committee:—

"(1) That the maxims on which the Department acts in foretelling weather have not been reduced into any clear or systematic form, and are not shown to have been established by sufficient induction from observed facts.

"(2) That as a matter of fact the Daily Forecasts are not shown to be correct, and that they are not in our opinion useful.

"(3) That the Storm Warnings, so far as they indicate the force of coming gales, have been sufficiently correct to be of some use, and that their utility is widely admitted. Also, that they have improved, and that they are probably capable of still greater improvement.

"(4) That the Storm Warnings, so far as they indicate the direction as well as force of coming gales, are not shown to have been so far precise or correct as to be of use."

After mentioning the benefit conferred by the erection by the Department of 95 good barometers at some of the poorest of the fishing villages, the report notices and approves the suggestion of the Royal Society as to the establishment of the six stations with self-recording instruments already referred to, proposes that they be supplemented by about sixty secondary stations, lighthouses, &c., and that the returns thus obtained should be laid down on maps similar to those of M. Le Verrier, and published at a low price. They insist on the officer issuing a storm signal "noting down at the time, and reducing into exact shape afterwards, the maxims or principles which have guided him in making the Signal of Force, or Prediction of Direction; the facts to which those maxims are applied; the mode in which he has applied or combined them, the value he has attached to each of them, and the value of the probability he has thus obtained, and which is indicated by the signal or prediction"; they also propose that a rigorous check on the signals be kept by collating all available records with the predictions.

They further propose that the collection of ocean statistics should continue much as it was originally arranged by Admiral FitzRoy, but that the discussion of the results should be on the improved plan already explained; that additional buildings be erected at Kew, and the branch department there should be under the control of a scientific body receiving a grant of about £7000 per annum from Government, and out of it defraying all expenses incidental to the thorough and systematic collection of weather statistics of the British Isles, and the maintenance of the system of storm warnings. As far as we can see, the estimated expense of the Kew and Board of Trade Meteorological Departments would be about £15,000 per annum, to which must be added the expenses incurred at the Hydrographic Department in getting out and publishing charts. The report goes on to express the hope that at no distant day one international centre may be established, and thus all divided and therefore duplicate labour be avoided; and concludes with the following paragraph:—

"We feel, moreover, that we should be doing great injustice to ourselves if we were to allow it to be supposed that we undervalue either what the late Admiral

FitzRoy attempted or what he effected. To his zeal and perseverance is due the credit of establishing a system of Storm Warnings, which is already highly prized by the seafaring class. And if a more scientific method should hereafter succeed in placing the practice of foretelling weather on a clear and certain basis, it will not be forgotten that it was Admiral FitzRoy who gave the first impulse to this branch of inquiry, who induced men of science and the public to take interest in it, and who sacrificed his life to the cause."

FLOODS IN THE NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

DESTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE.

MALTON, *Thursday, Aug. 30th.*

THE continuous rains of Wednesday have (for the second time this summer) caused great districts of the North Riding valleys to be inundated, causing a destruction of farm property, from which the county has not suffered since 1857, when a similar flood occurred. The late rainy season has so saturated the land that the whole of the last extraordinary rainfall ran rapidly off into the streams, and in that short period the North Riding rivers have risen from summer level to a state of flood. So heavy was the rain of Wednesday that the return railway journey from the Whitby Agricultural Show to Malton was made through an infinite array of cascades, every glen of the romantic Newton Dale being overcharged with water from countless contributory streamlets. On the eastern side of the moors the waters drain to the sea by the Esk—a meandering stream which the Malton and Whitby Railway crosses some dozen times in half-a-dozen miles. This stream receives the drainage of the Ellerbeck and the Gothland valleys, and rose to a state of flood in a few hours. The wooden bridge No. 9, from Whitby, being old, was about to be restored or replaced, and the railway company had commenced operations for a permanent structure. This bridge was watched with some anxiety all last night, the traffic of Wednesday (much of it excursion traffic) having all passed the bridge in safety. During the night, however, the flood literally floated the bridge and had drawn the piles, so that the trains could no longer pass. In Ryedale the rivers have risen rapidly, and above Newsome Bridge have either burst or overflowed the banks. This morning large tracts of country under crop are flooded, and in some places so deeply that the heads of the growing crops are only just above water. Of course all the pastures will again be spoilt for a time by the mud left by the flood water. The old Derwent, with the rapid flow of the moor streams, has again overflowed, and a railway journey to Pickering shows the extensive grazing lands one sheet of water for miles. At noon the waters were still rising, and it was feared the country of the Derwent proper, from Malton downwards, would also become extensively flooded.

MALTON, *Friday.*

It is thirty-five years since any approach to the scene of desolation witnessed to-day in the fertile vales of North Yorkshire has occurred. The constant rains of the last fortnight, culminating in the enormus rainfall of Wednesday, have carried destruction along the course of every river. Every valley has suffered from flood, more or less, but the greatest destruction has been in Ryedale, and among the Rye tributaries. In the upper part of the wide vale, a great lake has been formed by the rivers Rye and Riccal, which met, completely overflowing the whole intermediate country, inundating houses, and rendering roads impassable. Nunnington suffered much from this disaster, whole crops of stooked corn being floated away. The Kirkdale beck (always impetuous) rose with unexampled rapidity, and the ford was no longer safe. A pony and cart, with two persons in it, were carried some distance, and rescued with difficulty. Some other narrow escapes occurred here. The Farndale beck rose equally quickly, and at Yawdsworth Mill much timber was carried away, and a newly built house washed down. At Sinnington the Leven flooded the village, and floated large timber about in great confusion. Mr. Carter, of Kirbymoorside, with another gentleman, on horseback, were obliged to return to Pickering, and took refuge in the inn near the bridge. The house being full, they were compelled to sit by the fire till daylight, but the water entered during the night, and flooded the house, confining the inmates to the upper story, necescaries having to be given them from the street. The low part of the town of Pickering was much flooded. Between Kirbymoorside and Malton, miles of road

were flooded, and the inhabitants were prisoners in their houses in various places. At Marton the water was believed to be five feet deep in the village. From Normanby corn has been floated out of the fields as far as Barugh Hill, three miles. The damage in Ryedale cannot be estimated—whole farms are flooded. Not only corn-fields, but pastures, in splendid trim, are under water, and this morning stock were standing belly deep in the flooded lands. Near Malton the flood is increasing. By some accident the self-acting clough, in the Rye had been propped open, and in consequence the flood obtained access to Old Malton Moor, which, for the first time since the enclosure, half a century ago, is flooded. Farmers are busy fishing for their corn ricks in the flood waters. At Norton some pastures are overflowed, and much property has been destroyed in the brick-fields. Hundreds of acres are flooded by the bursting of the banks above Newsham.

The bridge near Grosmont, which failed yesterday morning, has become a total wreck, and a stationary engine erected to pump the water from the coffer-dam of the intended new bridge has been washed away, and is not yet found.

On Thursday morning, August 15th, the greatest flood ever known there occurred at Stokesley. The rain descended in torrents on 29th, and numberless cataracts were formed on Roseberry Topping and the adjacent hills. These meeting in the valley caused the small streams to be swollen into a foaming, rushing river. The stream called the Leven in particular overflowed its banks, and the water swept away all the sheaves and stacks of wheat along its course. On Wednesday evening the road between Stokesley and the Railway Station was so much flooded that the water entered the omnibus which was plying between the two places. The town itself, which adjoins the Leven, was under water, which entered a number of the houses in the lower part of the town, and was knee deep in the streets. The fields in which the show of the agricultural society was to have been held were flooded, so that not even an entrance into them could be effected, and under these circumstances the exhibition of stock had to be abandoned.

The inundations in North Yorkshire were rapidly lessened on Saturday, and on that day the North-Eastern Company had succeeded in throwing a temporary bridge across the Esk at Grosmont in place of that washed away on Wednesday night. During the floods it appears that, in addition to the damage to crops, many cattle and sheep were drowned, and some carcases were floating down the Derwent on Friday. Much land is still under water, and since the last report the banks above Ganton have burst and several farms are flooded, one farmer at Binnington having 100 acres of corn under water. The towns of Stokesley, Pickering, and Thirsk have suffered most.

As so often happens (in spite of the increased number of observers) there are few stations in the district which suffered most severely, and some of the stations being temporarily in charge of deputies, the returns are not so complete as they ought to be; in reply to inquiries we have been favoured with the following details:—

WHITBY.—Total rain in August 3·38, rain on 29th 2·22. The fresh down the river greater than for many years, but much exaggerated in some papers.—*M. Simpson.*

SCARBOROUGH.—Total in August 5·86, rain on 29th 1·82. Doubtless the superabundance of rain in July and the early part of August has kept the springs high, and so assisted in causing the great damage which was the *immediate* result of the rainfall of the 29th.—*Cornelius B. Fox, M.D., M.R.C.P.*

FILEY.—Total in August 3·85, on 29th 1·92.—*D. Philliskirk.*

BEADLAM GRANGE.—Total in August 4·13; on 29th 1·50.* From July 25th to September 3rd (6 weeks) we have had 8·2 inches.—*J. H. Phillipps.*

MALTON—Total in August 3·46, on 29th 1·30 inches.* Rain much heavier up by Beadlam Grange; flood came from that direction.—*H. Hurtley.*

NORTHALLERTON.—Total in August 8·60. Daily register not kept regularly, and fall for 29th unknown, but very great.—*W. T. Jefferson.*

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—Total in August 3·24, rain on 29th 1·85. A gale came up from N.E. on 28th, with rain, which continued all day on 29th. Large tracts of low land with the standing crops were flooded, several of the small streams were swollen and overflowed their banks, doing a large amount of damage.—*W. Fallows.*

* Approximate only; gauge not kept regularly owing to absence from home.

RAINFALL IN AUGUST, 1866.

Div.		STATIONS. [The Roman numerals denote the division of the Annual Tables to which each station belongs.]	Height of Gauge. Above Ground ft.	in.	Above Sea Level. feet.	Depth of Rain. Total Fall. inches.	Difference from average 1860–5 inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours. Depth. inches.	Date.	Days on which ·01 or more fell.
I.	ENGLAND.	Camden Town	0	6	100	2·76	+ ·12	·87	29	17
II.		Staplehurst (Linton Park)	0	6	296	2·15	— ·56	·40	27	16
,,		Selborne (The Wakes)	4	0	500 ?	2.66	— ·51	·90	6	16
III.		Hitchen	2	0	240	3·16	+ ·81	·92	30	20
,,		Banbury	7	0	345	3·52	+1·39	·96	29	19
,,		Wisbech	0	6	10	3·42	...	·54	12	18
IV.		Bury St. Edmunds (Culford).	1	2	...	3·39	+ ·95	1·28	29	15
V.		Calne	0	11	250	2·52	...	·65	29	13
,,		Plymouth (Goodamoor)	0	2	580	6·52	+1·53	1·30	12	18
,,		Barnstaple	0	6	31	3·99	— ·20	·85	12	20
,,		Taunton (Fulland's School)	1	4	...	1·65	—1·03	·44	29	20
VI.		Shrewsbury (Highfield)	5	6	200	4·36	+1·47	2·02	29	16
,,		Tenbury (Orleton)	0	9	200	2·99	+ ·11	·78	30	20
VII.		Leicester (Wigston)	0	6	220	4·41	+2·22	1·30	29	21
,,		West Retford	0	6	50	2·73	+ ·40	·70	28	15
,,		Derby	5	0	180	6·56	+3·96	2·66	28	22
VIII.		Manchester	2	7	106	5·12	+1·62	1·08	29	26
IX.		York	0	6	50	3·06	+ ·35	·98	30	16
,,		Skipton (Arncliffe)	3	0	750	5·33	— ·61	1·08	29	19
X.		North Shields	1	0	124	3·24	+ ·39	1·39	29	19
,,		Borrowdale (Seathwaite)	1	0	422	12·69	—1·39	2·20	7	25
XI.	WALES.	Abercarn	1	3	450	4·51	...	1·95	6	15
,,		Haverfordwest	2	0	60	5·00	+ ·12	1·84	29	12
,,		Rhayader (Cefnfaes)	2	0	880	4·21	— ·45	·76	28	23
,,		Llanberis (R. Victoria Hotel)	1	0	370	6·42	...	·85	28	20
XII.	SCOTLAND.	Dumfries	0	5	70	3·27	— ·61	·36	6	23
,,		Hawick (Silverbut Hall)	4	0	512	3·31	...	·58	31	19
XIV.		Ayr (Auchendrane House)	2	3	94	4·86	+ ·89	·56	1	23
XV.		Otter House	0	6	130	6·89	+ ·87	1·12	6	22
XVI.		Leven (Nookton)	0	6	80	3·42	+ ·44	·51	6	19
,,		Stirling (Deanston)	0	0	130	6·14	+1·52	·92	6	22
,,		Logierait	1	0	250	3·66	...	·55	1	15
XVII.		Ballater	0	10	656	2·84	...	·47	1	19
,,		Aberdeen	4	8	115	3·29	...	1·06	8	20
XVIII		Inverness (Culloden)	3	0	104	2·42	...	·37	2 & 4	16
,,		Fort William	0	8	20	5·27	...	1·05	3	22
,,		Portree	0	4	60	7·84	+ ·39	1·46	26	25
,,		Loch Broom	0	8	48	4·87	...	1·25	3	21
XIX.		Helmsdale	1	0	34	2·74	...	·49	13	19
,,		Sandwick	2	0	78	3·24	— ·47	1·02	4	20
XX.	IRELAND.	Cork	6	0	65	4·60	...	1·23	22	18
,,		Waterford	4	0	60	3·49	— ·46	1·02	24	15
,,		Killaloe	5	0	128	4·55	— ·38	·63	6	24
XXI.		Portarlington	9	0	236	2·63	—1.86	·36	2	27
,,		Monkstown	0	6	100	2·22	— ·99	·43	1	24
XXII.		Galway	6	0	25	5·11	...	·72	26	23
,,		Bunninadden (Doo Castle)	1	0	...	5·39	...	·77	6	28
XXIII		Bawnboy (Owendoon)	1	3	218 ?	5·22	...	·72	6	26
,,		Waringstown	0	4	191	2·90	...	·65	1	26
,,		Strabane (Leckpatrick)	0	5	260	4·46	...	·56	8 & 18	26

+ Shows that the fall was above the average ; — that it was below it.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES ON THE MONTH.

ABBREVIATIONS.—Bar. for Barometer; Ther. for Thermometer; Max. for Maximum; Min. for Minimum; T for Thunder; L for Lightning; T S for Thunderstorm; R for Rain; H for Hail.

ENGLAND.

CAMDEN TOWN.—Heavy continuous rain on 29th, and unusually dark, especially as there was no fog.

LINTON PARK.—The middle of the month pretty fine, but at no time has there been more than four consecutive dry days. T on 10th and 27th. Gale on 7th, frequent showers rather than any great rainfall. Winds chiefly S.W. and W. Harvest operations nearly completed, without much harm being done by the rain. The T S on the night of 26th-27th, very severe at Staplehurst; the T here was very alarming, but the rain appears to have been very partial, only ·40 in. falling here, and some of that not attributable to the T S which was at its height at 1 a.m.

SELBORNE.—High Wind with R all the evening of the 6th, and continued high winds till the 9th. Very dense fog from 20th to 25th. Max. ther. 73° on the 24th. Min. 37° on 19th. Prevailing winds S.W. to N.W.

BANBURY.—H and T in the neighbourhood on the 10th. T S on 28th; continued rain thence to 29th. Max. 73°. Harvest commenced in the first week; at the end of the month a large proportion of the wheat was carried, but much barley was still uncut.

WISBECH.—Gale on 4th, 12lbs; on 7th, 15lbs. L at 10 p.m. on 8th. T S on night of 10th, and at 3 p.m. on 16th. Fog on 22nd. Lunar halo on 23rd.

CULFORD.—High winds on 5th, 6th, and 7th. T S on 10th, 24th, and 29th. Weather during this month has not been very favourable for harwest operations; they are, nevertheless, nearly finished, and most of the grain got in tolerably good condition. Max. 78° on 26th.

GOODAMOOR.—T S at a distance on 16th, 20th, 26th, 27th, and 28th.

TAUNTON.—R fell in very heavy showers on 28th, registered at 9 a.m. on 29th ·44. Max. 85°·5 on 24th. Failure in wall fruit; apples very small and hanging in clusters on the trees.

DERBY.—2·66 in. was measured on the morning of the 28th; on the 2nd of August, 1846, 2·29 in. fell, which is the nearest approach to it in 25 years, the extent of my experience.

MANCHESTER.—T SS on 7th & 8th. The month may be considered remarkable, from rain having fallen nearly every day.

ARNCLIFFE.—First half of the month dark and sunless. Max. 66° on 20th.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Cloudy, damp mouth. Barley cut on 17th. Very fine to 19th, cloudy but fair to 25th. L on 26th. Large lunar halo on 27th. Heavy rain on 29th, 1·39 in. Wheat cut on 27th.

SEATHWAITE.—A cold, wet, and ungenial month, detrimental to harvest operations, though the crops are abundant. R on 25 days, on four of which it exceeded an inch.

WALES.

ABERCARN.—A dull heavy month, generally sultry, with occasional heavy rain, 2 in. having fallen in 24 hours on the 5th and 6th. Prevelent winds W. & S.W. Outbreak of Asiatic Cholera at Abercarn, on 27th.

HAVERFORDWEST.—The month commenced cold, cloudy, windy, and wet, so continued till the 14th, the succeeding 10 days being fine and dry, but below the average temp. of August, though some days were warm, the nights unusually so, on two or three nights exceeding 60°. On Monday the 27th, 6 p.m., a tremendous shower of rain producing ·40 in. in half an hour; the following day was cloudy and close, R began at 8 a.m. and continued with increasing steadiness and a heavy gale till past midnight; high winds and showery to the end of the month.

CEFNFAES.—Heavy storm of R on afternoon of 28th. An ungenial harvest month. H S 8 p.m. on 10th.

SCOTLAND.

DUMFRIES.—The weather during August has been broken and showery, there being only eight days without R. T on 11th and 31st. H on the 10th. Very unfavourable harvest weather, but the crops here sustained less injury than was expected. The R has been of great benefit to the pastures and turnip crop. Wheat and turnips fully an average; potatoes considerably above it; barley about the

average, and oats nearly so. The day temp. has been rather below, and the night above the average.

SILVERBUT HALL, HAWICK.—First two days rather cold; from 3rd to 9th very windy. T on 9th and 10th, followed by cloudy weather up to the 16th. Fine growing weather during the remainder of the month, turnips and other green crops generally looking well. Harvest operations commenced on most of the farms.

AUCHENDRANE.—Greatest rainfall on the first, ushered in our periodical rains called the "Lammas Flood," it has been more prolonged and abundant than usual, and has caused this August to be both a cold and wet month. High winds on 7th and 27th. Gale from S.W. on 26th. The greatest evaporation from a water surface ·240 in. was on the 1st, with S.W. wind and sky clear, no R till 3 p.m.; and the least was on the 9th and 14th with a N. wind and cloudy sky. *Blue* mist on 16th and 20th from 7 to 8 p.m., and on 21st. River highest on 19th, also a little raised on 5th, 7th, and 17th. A severe T S on 20th (the only one of the season); one of the road labourers near Ayr killed thereby. Potatoe disease first noticed on 24th.

OTTER HOUSE.—A wet month; R nearly an inch above the average; harvest commenced on the 27th; a fair crop of all kinds, turnips luxuriant; potatoe blight prevails to a certain extent.

DEANSTON.—No T except on 9th, and that distant; max. 69° on 26th; wet month; vegetation backward, very little done to the harvest at the end of the month.

LOGIERAIT.—A fine month for vegetation; the R at the beginning of the month was much needed; harvest operations now general.

ABERDEEN.—T on 7 days; fog on 8 days; bar. and temp. below the average; force of wind and rainfall, above it.

CULLODEN.—Showery; T on 9th.

FORT WILLIAM.—Fresh snow on Ben Nevis on 15th.

PORTREE.—August has again this year maintained its title to be called a wet month; the hay unsecured in July is still out, and of course in bad condition; the potatoe blight is making rapid progress; from the present appearance of the weather I fear the Highlandman must look forward to his usual harvest month (October) for weather for securing his crops. This month has done good in giving a plentiful supply of water, which was much needed from the dryness of the previous months; this Island is still healthy, except scarlatina amongst children.

LOCHBROOM.—Heavy wind on 3rd and hurricane on 4th both from N. August commenced rather unlike harvest weather, but on the 11th the weather became really autumnal, and since has continued propitious for "shearing" and ripening; the harvest is likely to be early for this country; the best farmers are already housing, and the later portions are whitening beautifully; the potatoes are excellent and free from blight and the turnip crop magnificent.

SANDWICK.—Gale (40 miles an hour), 3 p.m. 4th to 3 p.m. 5th.

IRELAND.

KILLALOE.—A remarkable prevalence of violent winds.

MONKSTOWN.—On almost every day this month more or less rain fell. The weather as a whole was cold and unfavorable for the harvest; max. having been 72° on the 24th and 26th; Bar. low, only above 30 in. on 10th & 14th; the gales of the 3rd, 4th, and 7th unusually severe for the season, and some injury done to the trees. H on 9th; very dense fog on 21st & 22nd.

DOO CASTLE.—A regular down-pour of R the whole of this month, the oat crop as a general rule as green as a leek. Hay which was cut at the beginning of the month is still unsaved, and low-lying meadows by the side of rivers have been inundated. The letter of Lord Portarlington which appeared in the papers about the middle of the month, stating that certain "indications" were in favour of fine weather up to the middle of September, has not been borne out, and farmers, to allay whose fears about the weather it was inserted, have been disappointed; T on evening of 25th.

OWENDOON.—The potatoe blight has shown itself very generally but not severely. The constant wet seems likely to have injurious effects on the harvest.

WARINGSTOWN.—Cold, showery, and unseasonable, with the exception of a few days in the last week; crops late; and the harvest much delayed.

LECKPATRICK.—Half the rain fell in the first eight days; a wet month and unfavorable for harvest, which should be in full progress.